

The Environmental Bi-Weekly

High Country News

Vol. 5, No. 17 35¢

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, August 31, 1973

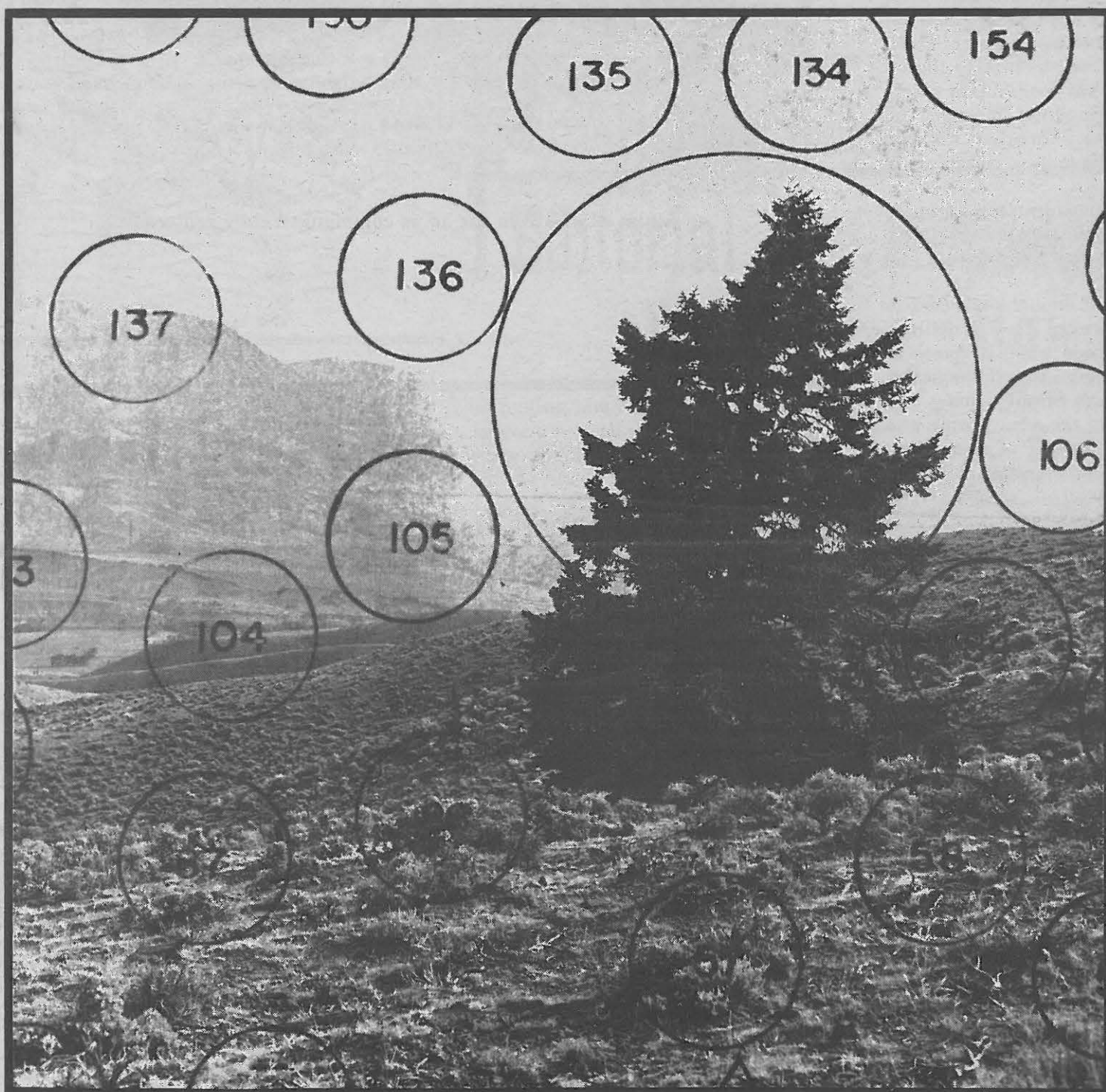


Photo by Lynne Bama

Superimpose a plot plan for a second home development on a photo of the actual site and you get what appears above. This is "Cody's Country," a proposed second-home development west of Cody, Wyoming, and less than 30 miles east of Yellowstone National Park. Each small circle represents a building site of a little less than an acre, all separated by common land. There are 324 such sites, some of them only 14 feet apart on steep slopes.

MOUNTAIN RESORTS-3

Cody: Homes on the Range

by Lynne Bama

Big changes are coming to Wapiti Valley. This scenic spot, nestled in the volcanic Absaroka Mountains west of Cody, Wyoming, is on a major tourist route to Yellowstone Park. Although progress has begun to touch it in the last 10 years, sheep and cattle still graze its meadows; deer, elk, and bighorn sheep winter on its high foothills; and eagles soar along its

river.

For the past year and a half the area has been under a land-use freeze, while Park County writes and adopts comprehensive zoning regulations. During this lull, decisions are being made which may transform the valley beyond recognition in the next few years.

Mikelson Land Company, of Billings, Montana, which recently acquired between three and five thousand acres in the narrow corridor

of private land just east of Shoshone National Forest, is proposing a "Master Plan" for this area which would include recreational home sites, condominiums, artificial lakes, a golf course, a skeet ranch, a "dude ranch," an airstrip, a service station, a motel complex, and a shopping center. The population increase involved is estimated at the equivalent of 2,500 families, more than the population of Cody (Continued on page 4)

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Environmentalists have recently been cautioned to relent and to go slow in their efforts to keep clean air and water - and a livable world. We are cautioned to "seek a better balance," and to avoid "spurious arguments and actions."

Well meaning as the advice is, it tends to miss the environmentalist philosophy. And that philosophy is really no different than that held by any conservative, capitalist banker. We contend there is only so much arable, productive land on earth; so many deposits of minerals; so much life-giving air, and so much clean water. These comprise the basic "capital" required to sustain life on earth - and the economic systems. Any good banker wisely counsels his clients not to live beyond his "means." The individual who does so for very long threatens his own existence by way of bankruptcy. The same inexorable rule applies to a society.

I don't know much about financial bankruptcy. I suppose few of us do. But it seems to me that the edge of bankruptcy must be a very fine and ill-defined line. Beyond that line you are in trouble.

Most environmentalists are well enough informed to know that ecological bankruptcy is even less well defined. We are literally babes in the woods when it comes to knowing at what point we may have tipped the scales against ourselves. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* was damned and condemned by some of the same people who would now counsel us to go slow for fear of a backlash. What a backlash her book received, but what a chilling prescience it held.

In this issue of *High Country News* there is an article about air sampling in Jackson Hole. There is enough concern to warrant some rather expensive research. The concern is that air pollution has already begun to obscure the renowned scenery of the Tetons - and it's getting worse. At what point does air degradation become not only a health and aesthetic liability but also an economic one? When you have destroyed the value of the Tetons as a tourist attraction, how much will it then cost to retrieve that value? Too much for society to pay?

The conservative *U.S. News & World Report*, which could never be construed as an environmentalist publication, sounds a warning in its latest issue (Aug. 27, 1973). It says, "Authorities warn that the whole world - not just this nation - is starting to press against the outer limits of earth's resources." It adds, "Current shortages of food, fuel, other items are only a hint of what's coming."

Gov. Tom McCall of Oregon has declared an energy emergency. The states of Idaho and Washington are expected to follow suit. The emergency was not of environmentalist doing. It was caused by natural disaster. But natural disasters only accentuate or exaggerate what is becoming a valid truth: too many people are putting too many demands on limited resources.

These are no "spurious arguments." How can we "relent" or "accommodate" when faced with grim truths?

Given known facts, furnished by government publications (available to anyone who wants to obtain and read them), we know tremendous savings can be made in the use of energy. We know there are alternatives to both nuclear and fossil-fueled powerplants that could be developed while holding down demand. We know that full development of both nuclear and fossil plants is committing our society to great risks and huge environmental costs. We know that government and politicians alike (with a few exceptions) don't have the guts to face the grim truths and tell it like it is.

Knowing these things, how do we quietly lie down and be prostituted by the "system"?



A hint of Fall is in the air as chipmunks boldly venture out.

Letters

Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
Building 85
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado

Dear Sir:

I was raised in the Dubois area as a young boy. . . and spent many an hour in the Wind River Range as well as the Absaroka Mountains. I watched the logging trucks invade our country and strip many acres of fine trees. . . I helped ranchers herd their cattle into and out of land that was in wilderness areas. . . but to me the most important part all that beautiful land represented was not the industry (although tourism in Wyo. is quite an industry today) but what it did to me inside. . . what all of God's creatures in their natural habitat did for my head. . . even as a young boy. . . but especially now. . . now that I am an adult and longing every once in awhile to get back to those mountains that run through my veins. If in 15 years I knew that the lower lands of the Popo Agie had been developed or exploited and I had not done my part in trying to save them both for my own future use. . . and even more the future use of other generations. . . I would never forgive myself for being so lazy and self-centered. The most beautiful and esthetic country the Popo Agie has to offer lies in the lower elevation land. . . as you well know. . . here is where people could hike and enjoy wildlife. . . and study nature like it is not possible in the classroom or in the city. . . and Wyoming unlike most states in the union has so much beauty to offer that now is the time that we save her. . . not after it is too late. Lets make sure that when we consider the Popo Agie Wilderness area we include the additional lower elevation acreage.

I beg the Regional Forester and the United States Forest Service to concern itself not only with the affluent society, which seems to control so much of our country, but to listen to the small voices in the background that are screaming for greater environmental quality, for this generation and any that might follow, were it just for a few gestures in behalf of nature NOW. Thank you.

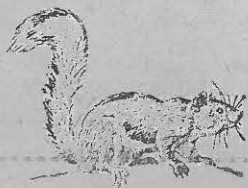
With peace and gentleness,
Dick Canby

Dear Mr. Bell,

As I sit here at my typewriter looking north toward Sheridan a familiar feeling of hopelessness and frustration begins its insidious invasion of being. Without lifting my gaze too high, clear blue sky and white fleece clouds are apparent. . . south-westward from our place on old 87 the mountains are visible. Of course, they are not too far away, so they should be. A spanking breeze ruffles the curtains. Except for the steady drone of traffic everything is peaceful. Then why the depression? Because we -- my husband and I, in our mid-fifties -- have put our property up for sale, and even have an interested prospect. We have come to the reluctant conclusion that in view of the increase in and changing nature of the use of this highway we had better get out while we can, for the problem cannot but worsen when the "expansion" that is in store for this valley gets into high gear. And the valley, this beautiful valley disappears in a perpetual cloud of pollutants, it's coal a burnt offering to the policy of profligacy, expediency and greed. It will probably come so slowly, so gradually and amid such soothing rhetoric from state officials that no one will really notice, because we do need the "tax Base, money infusion, industry and jobs."

Mr. Mike Leon presented a fine, painstakingly well prepared lecture in Big Horn a couple of weeks ago entitled "Where We Are Now." At the outside, there were perhaps 25-30 people there. This man would make a good governor, if he could be persuaded it would be worthwhile to run. And I wish I could stay here and be a persuader, but it is going to be difficult to talk my husband out of his dream of moving to northern British Columbia. He thinks we will be leaving such problems behind. I know we will not. . . just postponed a few years. Wherever we are I hope to continue receiving *High Country News*. I am enclosing my check for \$35 to help with publication costs. How I wish I could do more. . . you have a fine looking staff, doing good reporting.

Sincerely,
Martha M. Eads
P.O. Box 351
Sheridan, Wy. 82801



Guest Editorial



High Country News-3
Friday, Aug. 31, 1973

Reprinted from THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL, Wisconsin, July 6, 1973.

Bringing Second Homes Under Control

Once again, Sen. Nelson (D-Wis.) is calling the nation's attention to a fast growing environmental threat and offering a sensible solution. He has added to the Senate-approved land use bill a significant provision to minimize the destructive aspects of the current boom in recreation homes.

The gobbling up of rural and scenic lands all across the country for second, or vacation, homes is accelerating. About three million American families now have such homes, almost twice as many as in 1967. In Wisconsin alone, more than 100,000 such vacation homes have sprung up in the northwoods, along our precious waterways and across the rural landscape. Within the last decade, some 20 large projects of 50 or more units either

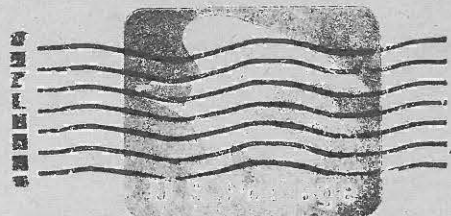
have been built in the state or are pending.

The dangers inherent in this boom were explained vividly by Nelson in winning 64 to 24 Senate approval of his measure. He termed it "an unparalleled land boom frequently involving poorly planned, unregulated, incomplete projects posing disillusionment and future financial loss to families who see their leisure living dream turn into a recreational slum. It is all too often a chaotic kind of growth, which puts spiraling demands for services onto hard pressed local governments that once may have seen only the allure of a big gain in tax base."

Under Nelson's measure, states would be required to set up procedures for reviewing the environmental impact and municipal ser-

vice requirements of second home developments of 50 units or more that were proposed for 10 miles or more outside major urban areas. State criteria would have to be set for environmental protection, including compliance with federal air and water quality requirements; adequate water and sewage treatment; compatibility with state and local land use plans, and demonstration of financial ability by the developer to complete the project and comply with the requirements.

Nelson's measure is a vital component of the broader land use bill now before the House. While there are likely to be some alterations before both houses agree, final action this year is expected.



Dear Mr. Bell,
Re: Mr. Fran Barnes' article in your August 3, 1973, issue.

I wish to take exception to both his article and his letter.

Mr. Barnes disposes of the noise pollution problem by saying, "How possibly could the pop-popping of a few hundred, or even several thousand, trail cycles be a problem within the vast open area the size of the state of New Mexico?" He indicates that planes, sonic booms, bulldozers, etc., are the sources of the noise pollution, and trail bikes do not need to be considered in such vastness.

The planes, sonic booms, etc. are bad, but add to them the trail bike noises, and there is nothing left of the wilderness feeling. Why not attempt to make places as quiet as possible? Because one noise is annoying, it does not follow that we have to add to it.

His letter seeks sympathy for the riders, for "they suffer the noise continuously." Why not suffer in silence — or as near to it as one can get?

He indicates that people who, because of health, could not get to the areas within the Colorado Plateau can do so on ORV. Yet, to quote him, "Invariably, the weaving, twisting cycle tracks reveal that the driver is having a genuine struggle keeping his machine under control. . . ." May I ask, how could someone with less than excellent health control his vehicle over such terrain?

He intimates that the country is only penetrable with ORV. This is not true. One may go farther (and see less) on a trail bike. But it is possible, and even enjoyable, to hike in the area, water scarcity notwithstanding.

He comforts us that tracks are erased by wind and rain. True. Yet in berating the mining interests, he says that the areas of their activity are "torn up by vehicle trails." Do only trail bikes tracks erase?

I agree we need carefully oversee any industrial use of the Colorado Plateau. But I insist that ORV's need regulation there as well as other activities.

I have seen and do know the country of which he speaks. I do not, however, agree one jot with his opinion. Perhaps I am a "purist."

Sincerely,
Marie Jackson
Salt Lake City, Utah

Editorial



Wilderness - How Pure?

Colorado's freshman Senator, Floyd Haskell, is putting himself on the line over a number of controversial wilderness issues in his home state. As chairman of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee on Public Lands, Haskell has had ample opportunity to show his environmental concern, and he has made no effort to hide it.

One recent controversy has been over the Gore-Eagle's Nest proposed wilderness near Vail, Colo. The Denver Water Board has had their eyes on water in this area, to divert under the Continental Divide and feed the sprawling Denver metropolitan area. Aside from encouraging more growth, the project would severely lower the Eagle River and inundate the popular alpine Piney Lake.

Last year, conservation groups went door to door in Denver and urged the voters to reject the proposed Eagle-Piney water diversion as part of a larger bond issue. This fall, the Water Board will return to the voters with essentially the same package. Haskell has joined the ranks of conservationists.

Despite intensive lobbying by the Water Board, Haskell engineered and passed draft legislation through his subcommittee which includes about 7,000 acres of the 9,000 acres the board says it needs for the project. The enlarged proposed wilderness is endorsed by almost all conservation groups, but is labeled "totally unacceptable" by James Ogilvie, the Water Board's secretary-manager.

Under the Wilderness Act, Denver could still penetrate the wilderness to build the water project, but only if the President determines it to be an emergency.

But Haskell has not stopped at defying the Denver Water Board. His Gore-Eagle's Nest bill, as reported out of subcommittee, also includes old timber cuts, several roads, a resort, a working mine and a power line within the proposed 140,000-acres. These boundaries were developed at Haskell's request by the Wilderness Society, which staunchly supports the bill.

These inclusions will bring to a head the question of how untouched land must be to qualify as wilderness.

It is a controversial issue even among pro-

wilderness groups.

Don Biddison, assistant to the chief of recreation and lands at the regional Forest Service office in Denver makes a strong case against inclusion of old logged-over areas. He argues that designating such areas as wilderness could open the door to logging in wilderness areas. The timber companies could claim that wilderness is a renewable resource.

Jerry Mallett of the Wilderness Society believes that the Wilderness Act prohibition of commercial timbering in designated wilderness areas will keep future loggers out. Haskell agrees, and is willing to press the point. If Haskell wins, it could be a foot in the door for setting aside more wilderness in the eastern states. Many eastern candidate areas do not presently meet the Forest Service's strict definition of wilderness.

Sen. Haskell is still green in the Senate, but he's learning the ropes fast. He has shown a willingness to listen, study an issue, and then take a bold stand. He is treading on thin ice for a freshman Senator and has earned all the support conservationists can give him. — BH

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

Published bi-weekly at 140 North Seventh Street, Lander, Wyoming 82520. Tele. 1-307-332-4877. Copyright 1973 by HIGH COUNTRY NEWS, Inc. 2nd class postage paid at Lander, Wyoming 82520.

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Editor	Thomas A. Bell
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Subscription rate	\$10.00
Single copy rate	35¢
Box K,	Lander, Wyoming 82520

Homes on the Range...

(Continued from page 1)

itself.

Most of the commercial activity would be concentrated in a 320-acre strip between U.S. Highway 14-20 and the North Fork River. Some of the development has also been slated for state and BLM lands, of which the company claims it can force the sale since it controls the leases. Development for large parts of the complex has not been described yet but will evidently take place in the future.

Only one part of Mikelson's plan has so far been approved or made public -- a 374-acre second home community known as Cody's Country, which was approved by Park County's commissioners last winter before most local residents were aware of what had happened.

This development, located on steeply rolling hills at the foot of Table Mountain, consists of 324 circular home sites 114 feet in diameter, separated by common land.

Mikelson's planning techniques have been much touted, and will supposedly prevent the formation of the "rural slums" which could result from random growth. The need for planning is undeniable, but whether this particular plan is environmentally sound is highly questionable.

Last year Mikelson engineers made percolation tests on the site which showed that the soil was easily capable of absorbing the proposed amount of sewage. But percolation rates are only a small part of the true picture.

A 1973 U.S. Soil Conservation Service study of the same area showed a distribution of three basic soil types. One would present only moderate problems for development. But the largest part of the site is composed of two other soils with slopes so steep as to present severe limitations ("very expensive and/or impractical to eliminate or correct") for construction, road-building, or sewage disposal. Furthermore, part of this area also has numerous rock outcrops, an additional limitation.

The agency also noted the possible presence of sodium in much of the subsoil. According to the report, "Sodium tends to break down soil structure and decrease the percolation rate... the eventual failure of absorption fields after a period of use is a possibility that should be considered."

Only about 65 of Mikelson's 324 home sites are planned on the favorable soil type. Many are crowded together, with as little as 14 feet between them, on the steeper slopes.

The SCS report was presented to the County Commissioners before the plat was approved. But whether they chose to ignore it or simply did not understand it, its findings were never acknowledged.

Many residents of Wapiti Valley are justly concerned about the environmental effects of Cody's Country, and fear what may follow it. Last spring a majority here voted for zoning regulations which would set a minimum house lot size of one acre, and generally limit land uses to those which already exist. Condominiums and shopping centers would be excluded under this proposal.

But the large landowners in the valley are mostly opposed to specific zoning restriction, favoring land use planning on a case-by-case basis.

A group representing ownership of over 80 per cent of the land went to the Park County Zoning Board shortly after the Wapiti zoning vote to plead their case. Their spokesman stated that they "wanted to set up the maximum freedom of ownership of private property along with the maximum freedom to think and innovate without harm to air, water, and



Photo by Lynne Bama

Here on this field, Mikelson Land Co. plans call for condominiums, an airstrip, service station, motel complex and a shopping center. Such plans have not yet been approved. But with lands purchased, surveys made, plans drawn, and a second-home development approved, the company can threaten the county with a suit and probably bluff its way. Wyoming, like other western states, has no laws or regulations to adequately deal with such developments.

aesthetic values." Or as another landowner put it more succinctly, "I don't want anyone to tell me what to do with my land."

Prices in Wapiti Valley have skyrocketed in the past few years from around \$750 an acre to as high as \$6,000 an acre, and many have already succumbed to the temptation to sell or subdivide and make a quick profit.

The Park County Subdivision Regulations, which were recently released for public review, seem to lean towards the views of the large landowners. The minimum lot size is much smaller than one acre; and although some standards are set for storm drainage and construction of roads, most of the guidelines included are vague. Public hearings must be held before any plat is approved, but the Zoning Board can use its own judgement as to when any of the regulations can be waived for hardship cases.

If Mikelson Land Company decides to submit its Master Plan to the County before these new rules take effect, the huge project could be approved without even a public hearing.

With or without Mikelson, great changes are probably inevitable in Wapiti Valley. The subdivision process has gathered momentum. The Yellowstone Park Master Plan's emphasis on such "gateway communities" will also make more tourist facilities necessary in the future.

Whether the present structure of the county government has either the scope or the expertise to handle the problems that will arise remains to be seen.

As the Cody Enterprise recently noted "Cody people are blind if they think this deeded land won't be divided somehow." The present high quality of life here will be lessened as crowds of new people move in, and taxes will eventually rise as more schools and other public services are required.

Park County's Subdivision Regulations state, "Subdivided land sooner or later becomes a public responsibility." But how

much voice the public will have in guiding the future of Wapiti Valley is also an open question.

Still A Concern

Fact or Fiction? Carbon dioxide from smoke stacks of the northern hemisphere is being "inhaled" by the North Atlantic and "exhaled" by the South Atlantic.

It's a fact, according to the prestigious Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts. Just how it works and what it all means may not be apparent for some time. But that it happens at all is a revelation.

Tracing the path of carbon dioxide through the oceans of the world is one of the goals of an international project in which the research ship Knorr was involved. The Knorr surveyed the Atlantic, while other ships are now probing other oceans. The measuring and sampling devices aboard the ships are said to be the most elaborate and highly computerized equipment of their kind ever sent to sea.

Carbon dioxide is absorbed by oceans as well as green plants. But there have been fears that current production of the gas by industrial activity could overwhelm the capacity of the oceans to absorb it. This could lead to excessive levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere functions much like the glass roof on a green house -- it permits sunlight to pass through it and generate heat but prevents the heat from escaping back into the atmosphere. Excess amounts of gas could, conceivably alter the earth's temperature.

The new finding by the researchers on the Knorr does not resolve any questions. But the information indicates that the oceans are still capable of removing quantities of the gas from the most polluted latitudes. However, oceans themselves are being defiled by all kinds of pollution. And the future of the airs and water -- and people -- of this planet are a matter of grave concern.

MOUNTAIN RESORTS-4

High Country News-5
Friday, Aug. 31, 1973

Planning For A "One-Horse" Community

by Bruce Hamilton

"You can't tell a man what to do with his land" has been the prevalent attitude toward land use planning in Teton County, Wyoming for a long time.

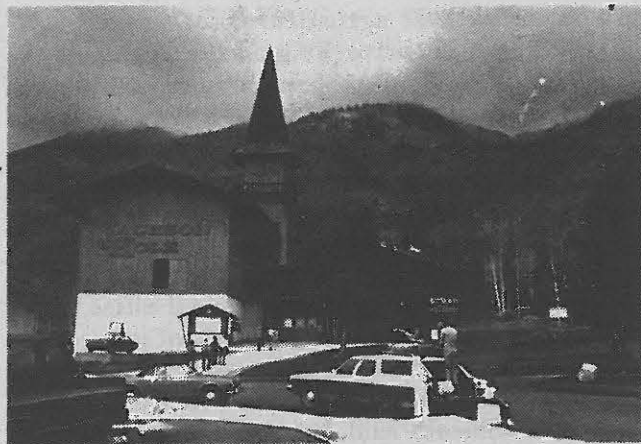
Man came to this rugged, unpopulated northwest corner of the state to escape the rules and regulations of an overcrowded society. Though the environment was harsh, the rewards were well worth the struggle. Homesteaders found a quiet valley to grow hay, raise cattle and horses, and enjoy the unsurpassed scenery. With over 97 per cent of the county in public ownership, the population boom, polluted cities, depleted wildlife resources and other urban ills seemed too remote to consider.

But things are changing in Teton County, and they're changing fast. In the Master Plan for the county the 1970 population was given as 4,645 people. It was projected that by 1980 the population would reach 6,300.

Teton County jumped the gun. In 1973 the population is about 7,000, well past the projected 1980 mark.

The reasons for this dramatic increase are many. The proximity of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks and the National Elk Refuge play the largest role. They expose this section of country to millions of Americans each year. The ski resorts of Snow King and Jackson Hole encourage others to come, many of whom will want to buy a piece of land and stay.

The population influx has created a land rush. There are only 75,000 acres of private land in Teton County. This land, according to the Master Plan "represents the most critical element influencing the future physical environment of the county." Not only is this land the only area available for development, but it is also the only area in the county for a



Jackson Hole Ski Area, catalyst for rapid growth.

number of other present uses. This 75,000 acres contains the major floodplains, the prime agricultural land, the key big game winter range and the existing fairly unobtrusive residential development. Any change in land use is bound to bring conflict.

And already the conflict can be seen. The attitude toward land use is changing accordingly. Now the residents are saying, "You can't tell me what to do with my land, but I want some controls over my neighbor."

The 1970 Master Plan consultants noted the conflict. Looking at existing land use patterns and developments, they observed that in most instances they were in harmony with natural features. Those that were not were "of fairly recent vintage."

The Master Plan advised, "Private conscience alone cannot be relied on to preserve

the type of environment for which Teton County is famous."

Between 1970 and 1973 "all hell broke loose in Teton County." The economic barometers registered the boom. Retail sales for the first five months of 1973 were up more than 20 per cent. The county's assessed valuation increased more than 10 per cent in one year.

A story in the *Jackson Hole News* told of the impact on the county: "Wednesday was just an average day for the Teton County Planning Commission as they were once again deluged with proposed developments."

Residents in the "one horse town" of Jackson and the surrounding private lands in the Jackson Hole area were finding out what it was like to become a major mecca for the nation.

A PLEA FOR HELP

"It snowballed to a point where the planning commissioners needed help," said Mary Inman, a local resident who currently advises the group. The commissioners asked for feedback from the community. Their plea mustered 30 volunteers.

The volunteers were divided into three subcommittees. They were asked to study and make recommendations concerning density, planned unit developments, and impact of development on the environment and the economy.

What was needed, as objectionable as it may sound to a lifelong resident of Teton County, was land use planning. Inman, a biologist serving on the impact subcommittee, helped lay the groundwork by writing a report for the planning commission entitled *A Land Capability Analysis of Private Lands in Teton County*. The report pointed out the environmental constraints to development which exist in the county. It recommended that lands be classified according to natural features such as floodplains, avalanche chutes or high water tables.

Inman felt that there was resistance to zoning because it is arbitrary. "It is viewed as laying a grid down on the land and basing decisions on it. It is one man telling another what to do with his land."

"Land classification is arbitrary too," said Inman, "but nature is making the decisions. This is why I don't call it zoning."

A recommendation in the Inman report called for the preparation of economic and environmental impact statements for new subdivisions in the county. The statements would be patterned after the federal environmental impact statement (EIS) required by the National Environmental Policy Act. On June 21, 1973, the Teton County Planning Commission adopted the impact statement requirement. The resolution called for statements "detailing the total effect that a development will have on Teton County."

Guidelines have been adopted for preparing the environmental impact statements. Similar guidelines to cover the economic impact statements are being prepared. There is talk of putting all types of development, not just subdivisions, under control.

Meanwhile, pressure to allow new developments continues. County Attorney Robert Ranck told the County Commissioners, "this office has been contacted by four developers, accusing the planning commission of using delaying tactics in approving their projects." Referring to the EIS requirement he said "I question that this is legal."

POKER GAME

The commission has already approved enough new development to double the existing county population. With all this pressure on the planners, it was suggested by members of the subcommittees at a planning commission meeting this spring that no new subdivision permits be granted until Feb., 1974. This would give the planners time to prepare guidelines and controls.

"You're talking about a moratorium," charged one of the commissioners, and a heated argument developed. The bickering continued.



Slowly, surely, the private land is subdivided.

The word "moratorium" brought visions of closed down stores, but the vision of uncontrolled growth brought even grimmer images to mind.

When the meeting quieted down a resolution was drawn up and passed that there would be no decisions made on subdivisions "for a reasonable length of time." The word "moratorium" did not appear in the resolution.

"Howdy" Hardeman, a rancher and head of the planning commission, summed up the feelings of the planning commissioners, "I don't like to go in with both feet. I like to keep one foot on the bank."

Meanwhile, the development requests continue to pile up. One developer named Barnard who is pushing an ominous-sounding project called the Snake River Venture was turned down before on a request to build 500 condominium units on 50 acres. He returned to the commission with the number of units cut to 350. The planning commission feels they can't ignore the request forever.

"He's invested \$250,000 and can't afford to sit on it," said

"He's invested \$250,000 and can't afford to sit on it," said County Commissioner Ralph Gill. Planning Commissioner Pete Finch pointed out that the developer had still not answered questions regarding sewage and effluent disposal.

"It's a poker game and we're bluffing," remarked one planner.

THE REAL CULPRIT

On August 7 a contaminated well was reported just west of Jackson. Dr. W.W. Elmore, the Teton County Health Officer, had the well tested. This was not just another case of dirty water, as Dr. Elmore pointed out. Lack of planning was the real culprit.

"The day of getting a piece of land and doing what you want with it should be over," he said. "In many places in the county it has been a practice to drill a 20-foot well then put a septic tank next to it."

Elmore continued, "The reason for contamination is the fact that we don't have any zoning or regulation. The way people are crowding out

(Continued on page 6)

... Jackson Hole

in the county we're going to have trouble if something isn't done about it."

There is no zoning in Teton County outside of the domain of the Town of Jackson. "Zoning" and "moratorium" are two words that, once uttered, make you a very unpopular man in Jackson Hole. Besides, as one resident, Med Bennett, remarked, "Communities with tough zoning don't look any different than communities without any zoning at all."

A look at events in the Town of Jackson makes Bennett's observation ring true. One application that has been favorably received "because of a good salesmanship job" involves 13 dwellings on an acre with 9 to 13 per cent grade, "which covers about 69 per cent of the



Downtown Jackson, even zoning doesn't help.

total land with asphalt and buildings."

Another example of Jackson "planning" is the recent request by Parkway Motel for a permit to cover a three-foot encroachment of their building into Jackson Street. It turns out the building had been built in the street and now the developer was asking for the town to allow encroachment for the life of the building.

Town administrator, Duane Wroe appealed to the Town Council to hire a full-time planner to make the zoning more effective. He concluded his plea by saying, "This area is growing and growing fast. I received a chamber of commerce thing today that shows records on this town and this county over the past 15 years and it really scares me to see what's happening."

Not all council members are eager to accept the idea. The "buffalo hunter mentality" as described by Oregon's Gov. Tom McCall still dominates many in this Wyoming frontier town. A new council member, Tom Lamb, objected to the idea of a planner saying, "This little one-horse town is really getting to be something when we have to have someone sit around and plan."

PROTECTING A WAY OF LIFE

In 1968, over 63,000 acres of the 75,000 acres of private land in the county were in agriculture. The Master Plan states, "From a strictly aesthetic standpoint, it could be argued that all the privately owned undeveloped lands contribute to the beauty and character of the county's landscape, and should accordingly not be developed."

Yet when lots are selling for \$30,000 and \$35,000 for seven-tenths of an acre at Teton Village, one begins to wonder how long the ranchers can hold out.

Money is not everything to the ranchers of Jackson Hole. They realize they are a part of something special and to give it up will not be easy. Mrs. Hardeman is content. She holds, "It's not something you just give up one day. Ranching is a way of life."

Teton County's state representative John Turner states, "We can't continue to gouge the ranchers in Jackson when it is in all of our best interests that we help them stay in busi-

ness."

Last session he introduced a bill to offer his constituency some relief. His Scenic Easement Bill was an attempt to preserve open space and agricultural land in the state. The bill would have created a development right associated with each property that could be sold or donated to public or private entities. These voluntary land covenants would enable a man to live on his land and pass the development rights on to a party interested in preserving open space. In return, he would be guaranteed a low tax assessment by state and federal authorities since his land would have no development value.

Turner's bill never came to a vote. Creating a new property right is a legal problem and was not readily accepted by the committee considering it.

Meanwhile, citizen planners and conservation groups in Jackson Hole continue to examine the idea of conservation easements. This may be the way the county can preserve open space without resorting to zoning. The concept involved is that a landowner does not have license to do anything with his land just because he has title to it. A landowner has a combination of rights (the right to build a home or to graze cattle for instance). Some rights he does not have. Just because a stream runs through his property does not mean he can dam it up. An easement involves selling a few rights and keeping others. The exchange could profit the landowner by a cash sale, or it could be written off as a charitable contribution to a suitable organization like the Nature Conservancy. If a conservation group obtained the right to develop, there would be a method arranged whereby the right to develop would be dissolved.

The state legislature did go part way in granting tax relief to the ranchers. This past session it passed a bill which calls for state assessment

Nothing Stops Developers

Growing pains are evident in the Salt Lake Valley of Utah according to Suzanne Dean, a *Deseret News* staff writer. Reporting on a tour of new proposed developments she states that "Salt Lake Valley has enough land to accommodate growth, but development pressures often are strongest in areas least suited for building."

One stop on the tour was a near-perpendicular slope near the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. An apartment complex was proposed for the area, but the hill was too steep for an entrance road. The developer proposed an elevator to take people up the slope from a parking lot below. The hill also is subject to severe earthquakes. Assistant Salt Lake County Planning Director Gerald Barnes said there "have been tremendous pressures on the hill, and faults don't seem to mean a thing to developers."

The tour also stopped across from Snowbird's Hillgate Village to view a north slope of Little Cottonwood Canyon where several condominiums have been proposed. Forest Service officials said the land is "the most intense avalanche zone in the Mountain West area."

Charles Wilson, superintendent of the Salt Lake City Water Department, said excessive development in Little Cottonwood Canyon could endanger a major source of Salt Lake City water. If all developers were permitted to go ahead with their proposals, Barnes predicted that "by 1980, water in Little Cottonwood Canyon would not meet federal standards and would no longer be suitable for use."



Ranching in Jackson Hole, "A way of life."

of agricultural land according to its highest agricultural use, not its development potential. This will give the rancher a break and an incentive to keep ranching by keeping some of his taxes low. Unfortunately, federal estate inheritance tax still views a ranch in Jackson Hole as a potential condominium plaza.

Whether Teton County chooses the easement route is still to be seen. The land use planner has a whole bag of tricks to consider including purchase lease back arrangements, life tenancy plans, gift potentials, revolving land bank systems, compensatory regulations and zoning. Perhaps in the end we will find that a combination of these methods is the only way to achieve desired land use goals.

In Teton County, the citizens are learning to accept land use planning as a part of their lives. Their independence makes them hesitant to jump on any "solution" too quickly, but perhaps this is as it should be. As Aldo Leopold pointed out in *A Sand County Almanac*, "Conservation is paved with good intentions which prove to be futile, or even dangerous because they are devoid of critical understanding either of the land, or of economic land use."

In the southwest section of the valley where the county's best agricultural soil is found, development is encroaching on the greenbelt. Dr. Merrill K. Ridd, professor of geography at the University of Utah, said in 1919, there were 100,000 acres of county land in agriculture. Today the total is 33,000.

George Smeath, a planning consultant on the tour, favored concentrated growth. If urban development were concentrated in urban areas, the result would not only be more vital cities, he said, but tax savings, since government services could be provided at less expense.

"The costs of government are becoming prohibitive," Smeath said, because services must continually be extended to the new development on the periphery of urban sprawl.



Energy Use Rises

The world consumption of energy rose by 63 percent between 1961 and 1970, according to the Statistical Office of the U.N. The United States, which is by far the largest user of energy, consumed 33 percent of the world's energy in 1970, despite having only six percent of the world's population. Russia came in second in energy usage, China third, and Japan edged out the United Kingdom for fourth place.

A report from the U.N. office, titled "World Energy Supplies," notes that 36 countries built their first petroleum refineries during the last decade. : : EARTH NEWS

Nerve Gas: - A Terminal Disease

High Country News-7
Friday, Aug. 31, 1973

by Ron Wolf
Straight Creek Journal

A top U.S. scientist who is an advisor to the army on chemical and biological warfare has denounced the idea of a national deterrent stockpile of nerve gas as "absolute nonsense."

The army has revealed that such a stockpile would be maintained at Rocky Mountain Arsenal near Denver and at Tooele Army Depot near Salt Lake City.

Dr. Marvin S. Meselson, Professor of Biology at Harvard, said that there was "absolutely no sound military reason" for keeping such a stockpile at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, or anywhere else, after the M34 cluster bombs there are detoxified.

Meselson was a member of the National Academy of Sciences team which inspected the arsenal at the request of the army in 1969 and recommended that the obsolete M34 bombs be destroyed on site. In addition, he has served as an advisor to numerous other government agencies on chemical and biological warfare.

Last month Denver Congresswoman Pat Schroeder met with Meselson at his Cambridge, Massachusetts, office for background information on her upcoming trip to the Geneva disarmament talks. Schroeder presented Meselson, who holds a top-secret clearance, with the classified information on the arsenal given to her by the army.

Meselson said, "I feel like telling 3-million people (in Colorado) they have a terminal dis-

Nerve Gas Remains

Spokesmen at the Pentagon refuse to predict when a decision will be made regarding the fate of the nerve gas stockpile at Rocky Mountain Arsenal outside of Denver. Denverites still do not know whether the lethal weapons will be maintained on site, moved to another site, or destroyed.

The *Denver Post* reported on Aug. 4 it had learned that the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff reaffirmed its policy of retaining poison gases in the nation's arsenals. The office of the Secretary of Defense has been silent on the subject.

The relocation site for the Denver stockpile that appears to be the first choice of the Secretary of the Army is Tooele, Utah. This move is being opposed by Rep. Wayne Owens of Utah in the Congress. His bill requiring destruction -- not just relocation -- of the nerve gas stockpiles near Denver will be given "top priority" by the House Armed Services Committee. The bill also requires "a reassessment of our entire chemical-warfare policy," according to Owens.

Owens said he would also introduce a resolution urging Congress to ratify the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which bans the first-use of gas and bacteriological warfare. "The United States was a leader in securing the Geneva Protocol. But we have never been a party to it," Owens said.

The amount of GB nerve gas stored at Rocky Mountain Arsenal is secret, but has been unofficially estimated at 4,500 tons. This is believed to be about one-tenth of the amount kept at Tooele.

According to the *Denver Post*, "Some 2,000 tons of GB nerve gas, loaded in obsolete M 34 cluster bombs at the arsenal (outside Denver), are scheduled to be detoxified in a three-year program beginning Oct. 1. About 1,000 tons of phosgene, a less lethal gas, are to be destroyed when the GB program is finished. The arsenal is nearly halfway through a mustard gas destruction program. Approximately 1,400 tons of the latter remain to be detoxified by Sept. 1974.

ease."

Meselson also said he was "surprised" to learn that "nothing new had been demilitarized" since his last inspection tour of the arsenal. At that time the army told him that the demilitarization of the M34 bombs could be completed in 33 months by the methods then in use. Now it is almost four years later, demilitarization has not yet begun, and the army is still claiming it will take 33 months with an expensive, new automated disassembly line.

Said Meselson, "I thought that this whole thing had gone forward."

The scientist termed the continued presence of the stockpile near Denver, "a very definite hazard."

Meselson also thought that "an airline crash involving hot jet fuel" would "definitely detonate" the nerve gas bombs, and that if such an accident took place under adverse weather conditions, it would result in "many thousands of casualties."

Dr. Meselson discounted claims that a strategic reserve of the nerve gas was necessary

Governor Declares Emergency

Oregon Gov. Tom McCall has declared a statewide energy emergency and ordered reductions in all state energy consumption. The governor outlined a 16-point mandatory conservation program for state agencies. He also requested voluntary measures for businesses and residences.

McCall said he did not have the power to order mandatory energy savings for other than the state agencies. But he said he would not hesitate to call the legislature into special session to enact mandatory energy controls if

in Denver or anywhere else as a deterrent. "If the army ever recommended to the President that he use nerve gas," said Meselson, "even in retaliation, the President would laugh them right out of his office."

The whole thrust of U. S. defense policy, he explained, was to simplify the options available to the President in an emergency. This process reached "ultimate perfection" in the nuclear deterrent. While the nuclear strike was almost a totally simple process which could be launched under any conditions, nerve gas as a deterrent is "extremely complex."

Use of such a chemical weapon, he said, depended on temperature, and on wind and weather conditions, and numerous other factors.

Meselson also discounted the army claim that we need a stockpile as a bargaining chip in the arms-limitation talks. "That is also absolute nonsense," he said. "It's just a very fashionable argument."

"After all," he notes, "we didn't bargain with the biological weapons. We just destroyed them."

necessary.

Critical drought conditions have seriously lowered reservoir levels throughout the Northwest. The Bonneville Power Administration estimates that the power equivalent of three Bonneville Dams must be saved in the next few months. McCall is shooting for a 10 percent reduction in use. He said if reductions cannot be made, "Our economic life would be in tatters, and our social and cultural lives deperately affected."

Some of the points in McCall's conservation program include:

- Discontinuing nonessential air conditioning and lighting in state buildings and lighting along highways.
- Increasing efficiency of state vehicles by prohibiting one-person use, limiting speed to 55 mph, and doing more tune-ups.
- Closing all state buildings after 6 PM.
- Revising work schedules to allow maintenance and custodial work to be done during the day.
- Eliminating lawn watering and use of fountains in which electrical energy is used.
- Asking state employes and the public for other recommendations on energy conservation in state government.

Who Profits?

Who profits from the development of the Mountain West? Clues can often be found in local papers. Recently, the *Steamboat Pilot* (Aug. 23) carried a news item announcing an \$8.1 million loan to the Middle Park Land & Cattle Co. That's the company which is promoting the 7,400-acre Steamboat Lake Colorado recreational land development project near Steamboat Springs.

The loan agreement was made with Fidelity Mortgage Investors of Jacksonville, Florida. At the same time, it was announced that purchasers of lots in the development may make loans through First Pennsylvania Banking & Trust Co. of Philadelphia. The financing agreement was for \$20 million.

Middle Park said the \$8.1 million loan was an extension of an earlier \$5.2 million loan made last August. The new loan is to be used for engineering and construction of "amenities," roads and utilities -- and environmental studies.

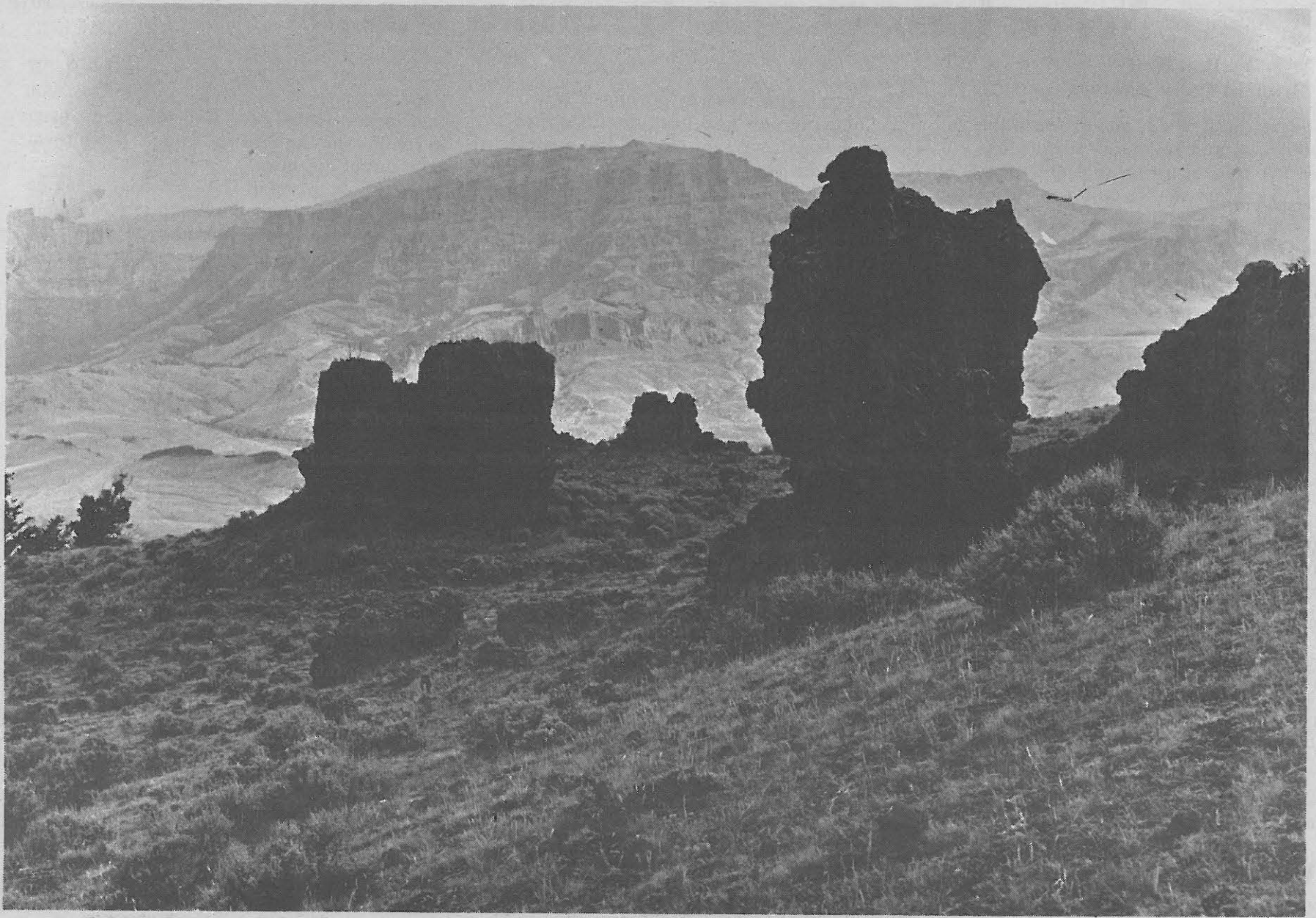


Newsprint Is Short

A newsprint shortage is temporarily jeopardizing publication of some western newspapers and causing changes in others. Canadian newsprint is about 25 percent below normal. Strikes at five mills, closing of old, inefficient mills, and increasing demands have brought on the shortage.

The *Salt Lake Tribune* has discontinued out-of-state subscriptions. The *Billings Gazette* has announced a reduction in news space but no change in advertising. A number of weekly papers in Idaho may cut down on size of the paper and reduce feature articles, giving preference to straight news.

Continued publication of *High Country News* is not threatened at the present time. However, circulation cannot be greatly increased as we wished. If the paper shortage continues for any length of time, then we may be forced to cut back.



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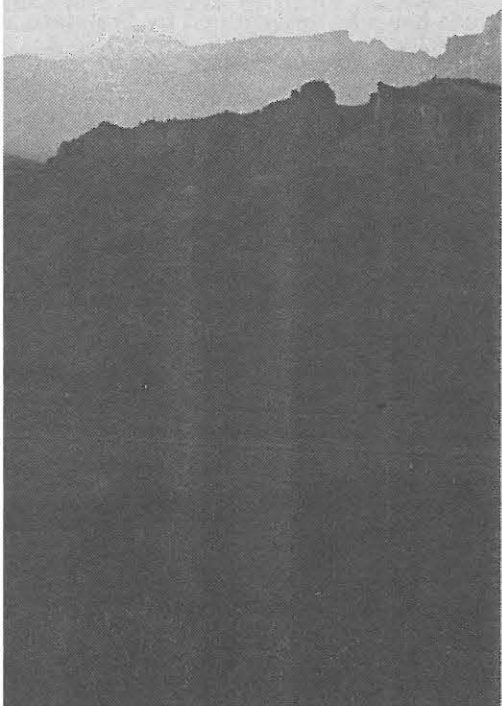
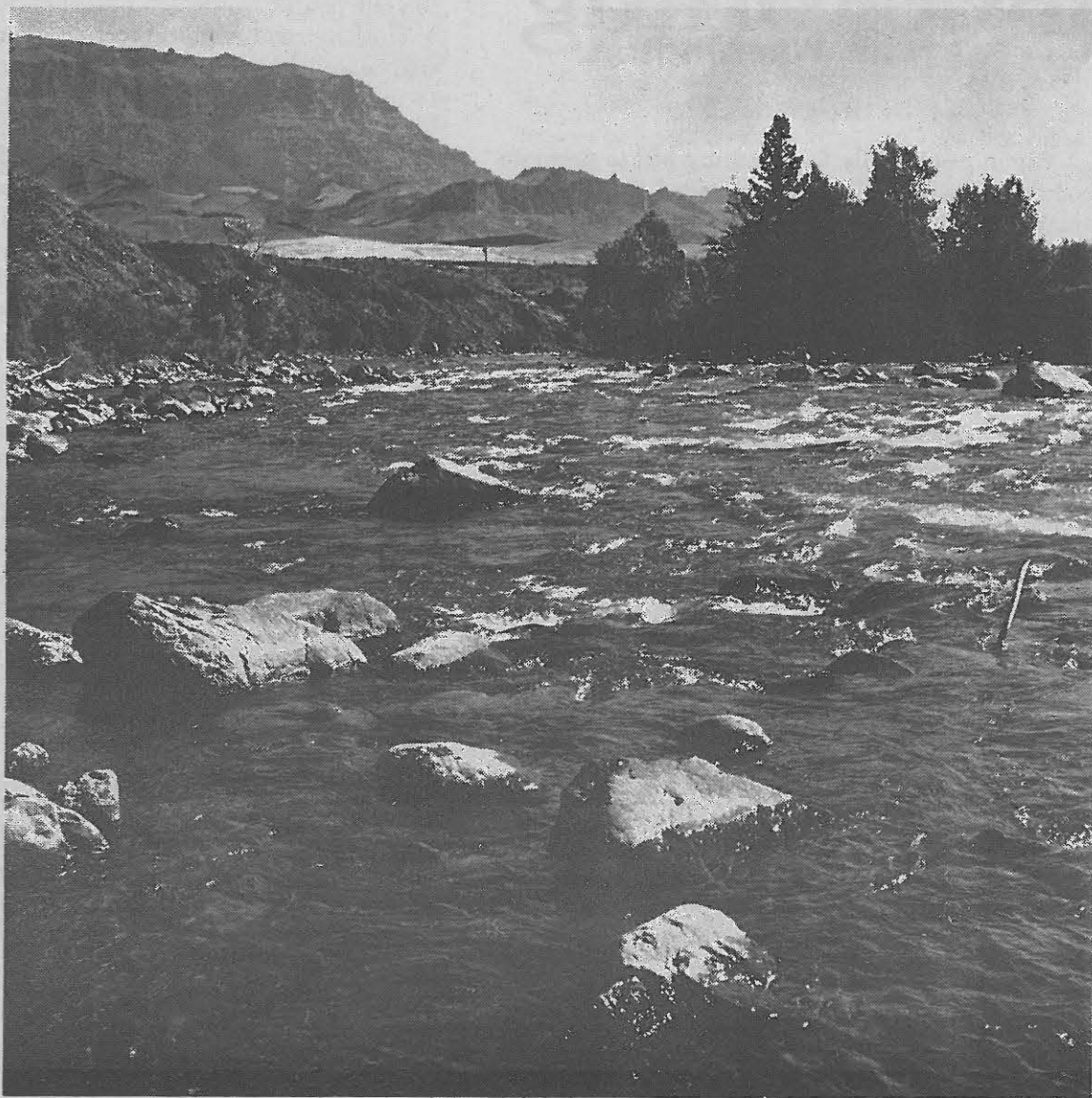


Photos by

's Country

sions and second-home developments in the Co's venture west of Cody, Wyoming, was se to local people. It was approved by the last winter before anyone realized the true cations of such a development. (See Lynne .)

the catchy name for Mikelson's grandiose Stillwater Valley, the company is promoting The development is planned to extend from Forest boundary (photo at left) to the North River (at right). Most of the already approved e community would be situated on steep, those shown at left and right below.



Reckoning from Washington

by Lee Catterall

A vague, potentially far-reaching bill to promote good land use policies appears headed for Congressional approval before the year's end. Its passage will be greeted more by bewilderment than by distress or acclaim.

What is good land use? Nobody seems quite sure, and that feeling is reflected in the bill, sponsored by Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.). It contains lots of good-sounding words like "wise" use of federal machinery, "sound" land use policies, "meaningful" participation by everybody and "efficient" use of land. It neglects to say what is wise, sound, meaningful and efficient.

The Senate approved the Jackson bill two months ago with Sen. Clifford Hansen dissenting. A House Interior subcommittee that includes Rep. Teno Roncalio is expected to put the finishing touches on its version soon after its members return from the August recess.

The bill would set up a bureaucracy and require states wanting federal money for land use planning to do the same and to write state regulations to be approved in Washington within the next three years. The regulations would spell out what can and can't be done on private and state land. Somebody who would want to build a hamburger joint or a hotel complex would have to conform to state regulations that, in turn, would have to meet federal standards.

Lee Nellis, a University of Wyoming student representing several environmental groups in the state told the House committee that Jackson bill is a "glittering generality." Hansen considers it a dangerous potential infringement on state zoning and individual property rights.

In a Senate Interior Committee minority report, Hansen and two other Senators called the Jackson bill "federal overkill" because it would "alter and destroy the historic right of state and local governments to zone and regulate land use within their own jurisdictions." Jackson retorted it would only force states to do something they have long allowed communities to do without interference and to extend that responsibility into rural areas without zoning boards.

Hansen bases much of his opposition to the bill on his view that it "would stifle private ownership" because restrictions on the use of a piece of land would decrease its "market value," without compensating the owner for the loss.

Benjamin Ronis, a Washington consultant on urban growth and land development, says Hansen's philosophy needs re-examination.

"Much of this confusion about land use controls is based upon confused attitudes toward land itself," Ronis told participants of a recent conference on land use. "Is land a national resource or private capital? Is land wealth or merely a medium for creating wealth?"

"Before a road-map can be drawn to allow continued progress beyond the crossroads toward the goal of feasible land use controls, the public must come to grips with attitudes on land and in whose interest, public or private, are the priorities for selecting what some like to call 'its highest and best use' . . . or even if such land will be used at all," Ronis said.

Or, as UW student Nellis phrased it, "There is no use building a road if there's nowhere you want to go."

It is a profound philosophical question that, with passage of the Jackson bill, could evolve into a Constitutional battle in the courts. The Supreme Court upheld the right of local zoning boards to restrict land use long ago, but the Jackson bill would go a step further.

Your Thoughts Needed!

Caution! EPA rulemaking may be hazardous to your health.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will soon hold hearings on four proposed ways to prevent "significant deterioration" of clean air. The Sierra Club claims that none of the four alternative proposals will guarantee that clean air will prevail in unpolluted areas. The Club claims that the upcoming hearings are the latest chapter in EPA's three-year-long history of subverting the Clean Air Act of 1970.

EPA's hearings are the result of the agency's defeat in court by the Sierra Club. The U.S. District Court (May, 1972), the Court of Appeals (Nov., 1972), and finally the Supreme Court (June, 1973) each affirmed that the Clean Air Act prohibits the "significant deterioration of existing air quality in any portion of any state." The court ordered EPA to design regulations to prevent "significant deterioration" of air quality. The Club holds that "all of EPA's four possible approaches are in direct violation of the court order."

The outcome of these hearings is vital to citizens of western states like Montana and Wyoming. The air in these states is relatively unpolluted, but there is a potential for massive pollution from the burning of coal in the Powder River Basin to produce electrical energy.

Acting Administrator of the EPA, Robert W. Fri emphasized that the outcome of these hearings ". . . will have a substantial impact on the nature, extent and location of future industrial, commercial and residential development throughout the United States.

"It could affect the utilization of the nation's mineral resources, the availability of employment and housing in many areas and the costs of producing and transporting electricity and manufactured goods," Fri warned.

Significant deterioration ". . . is a question that must be discussed, debated and decided as a public policy issue, with full consideration of its economic and social implications."

The four plans are as follows:

1) **AIR QUALITY INCREMENT PLAN:** setting a national, uniform limit on the allowable increase for only particulate and sulphur dioxide pollutant concentrations over the ambient levels these pollutants reached in 1972. With this alternative in effect, pollution levels in any locality where the 1972 levels are below federal standards could be increased only by a specified number of micrograms per cubic meter.

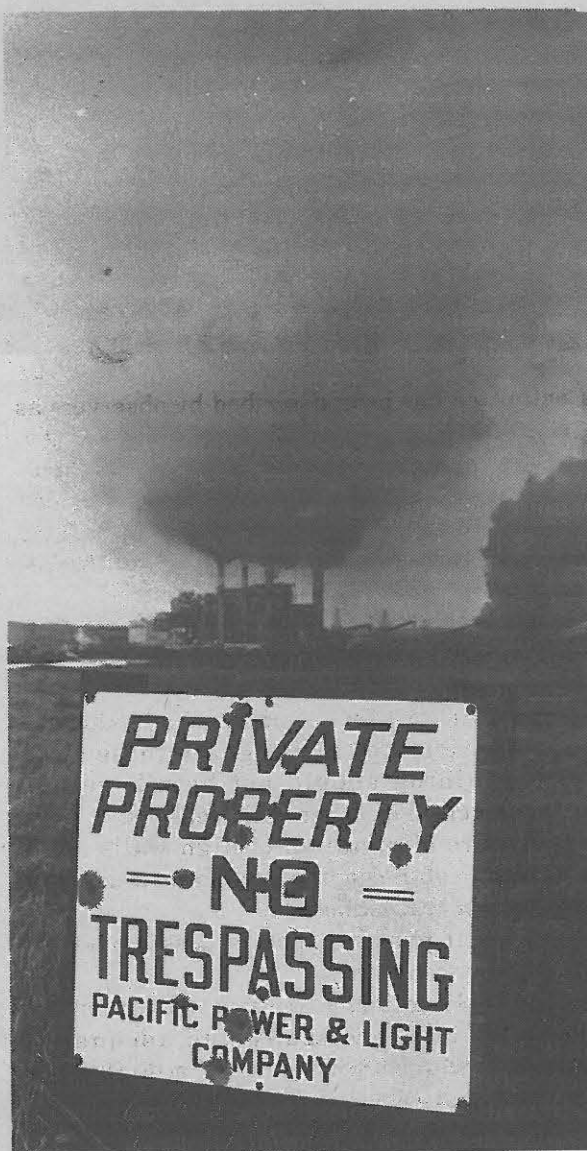
2) **EMISSION LIMITATION PLAN:** setting an emission ceiling, governing only particulate matter and sulphur dioxide, for air quality control regions. This would apply for only those regions with cleaner air throughout than is required by federal air quality standards. Unlike Alternative 1, under this plan a particular locality can degrade its air severely with respect to particulate matter and sulphur dioxide, as long as the regional average is maintained by the existence of pure air areas elsewhere within the region.

3) **LOCAL DEFINITION PLAN:** permitting each state to determine on a case by case basis whether any new source within its borders is causing significant deterioration.

4) **AREA CLASSIFICATION PLAN:** requiring every state to classify each area of its territory into two zones of allowable deterioration. Zone II lands would be held to the same permissible emission increases over 1972 levels as set forth in Alternative 1. Zone I, to be composed of ultra clean areas where polluting development is not intended to take place, would be more restrictive in the allowable increase in emission levels. Exemptions from zone regulations would be allowed on a case by case basis as determined by the state.

The first plan comes closest to satisfying the Clean Air Act, but it still falls short. Controls are limited to particulates and sulphur oxides. The only limitation on significant deterioration of air quality relating to nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and oxidants is that the best available control technology must be used. These pollutants come primarily from automobiles. The EPA plans would regulate only 16 categories of industrial facilities and other large stationary pollution sources. Construction plans for new towns, highways, large shopping centers and other developments that would create auto-regulated air pollution would

(Continued on page 11)



If Wyoming, Montana and other western states are to avoid serious deterioration of their relatively clean air, steps must be taken to assure that "significant" air pollution does not occur. The debate over "clean air" is undoubtedly one of the great public policy issues of the times. It, of course, relates directly to the energy issue.

How to Prevent Significant Deterioration: The Elements of a Plan

- All pollutants covered by the Clean Air Act should be included in the plan. All significant sources should be included.
- National, uniform limits in allowable increases should be specified.
- Allowable increases should be applied to all air pollution occurring anywhere, not just at ground level.
- An absolute limit on increases should be set.
- Exempt small sources not causing significant deterioration.
- Keep the whole process open to the public.

The Hot Line

The Massachusetts Audubon Society is planning a new 8,000-square foot building using solar energy to heat it in the winter and cool it in summer. The solar energy would be collected through a long, slanting roof. Initial plans have already been drawn. An Arthur D. Little study indicates solar energy could be supplying one percent of the nation's energy needs by 1983. This would be equivalent to 100-million barrels of oil a year.

* * *

An International Energy Bank with total resources of \$175 billion is said to be a "major new venture" by U.S. News & World Report. At least two large U.S. banks are in the consortium. Projects under study are said to be the expansion of the American coal industry, Alaskan and Canadian Arctic pipelines, and construction of large ships to haul liquefied natural gas.

* * *

Addressing the annual stockholder's meeting of Peabody Coal Co., U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd said government clean air standards will have to be rolled back. The alternative he said would be a "paralyzing stoppage in almost every phase of our national life." He added "... we are just going to have to make accommodations." (He said nothing about government efforts to mandatorily control the uses of all energy, or government efforts to better educate people to the dangers of greater consumption of energy.)

* * *

Interior Secretary Rogers Morton admits that federal government efforts to promote energy conservation have been "mostly jawboning." He told a House Interior Subcommittee that Interior was going to establish a public relations office on energy conservation.

* * *

The Pacific Northwest got a warning from Interior Secretary Rogers Morton that mandatory curtailment of electrical power might be necessary if voluntary programs fail. He told a news conference the Northwest's power shortage could be a real test of whether "... we as a nation can and will exercise the self discipline to ward off the looming energy crisis." He said there was an energy deficit of 13 billion kilowatt-hours, brought on by the severest drought in history in the area.

* * *

Exxon Corporation, the nation's largest oil company, became the ninth large company to contribute \$500,000 to research on oil shale. The combined multi-million effort is coordinated by Standard Oil of Ohio.

* * *

Hughes Airwest may save up to three million gallons of fuel a year by using computers. Computers examine up to 100 probabilities to obtain an optimum flight profile for the DC-9 jets which will save the most fuel without loss of time. Changes in speed, altitude, aircraft capability and weather are considered.

* * *

The first Soviet oil tanker to dock in U.S. waters in more than two decades arrived in Delaware Aug. 4. The tanker carried Egyptian crude oil for the Getty Oil Co. This was the first of a number of Soviet vessels scheduled to bring in oil to help ease U.S. energy problems.



Federal strip mining legislation will be an important consideration in Congress when it reconvenes in September. This mine north of Sheridan, Wyoming, is only the first of many which will puncture the landscape in northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana. Wyoming's present strip mine legislation is considered by many to fall short of adequately protecting the land.

Focus Is On Strip Mining

Strip mining legislation will be one of the items to be considered by Congress when it reconvenes next week. The focus will be on the Senate where S 425 is being considered in the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. The

Thoughts . . .

be unregulated thereby allowing significant deterioration to occur.

The other three plans all permit significant deterioration in some areas. EPA admits this point. The agency states that the second approach would allow air quality to deteriorate "to secondary standards in one or more places due to large new sources or source clusters." Under the third approach, "there would be no control over the ultimate level of deterioration, which could progress in finite increments up to the level of the secondary standards." The fourth approach "would allow some isolated exceptions to the allowable deterioration levels." Since these zones will include areas with an "unusual availability of raw materials," this approach allows air quality deterioration from mine-mouth coal-burning power plants such as those planned for the Powder River Basin.

The Sierra Club believes that beautiful, unpolluted, open areas should be kept clean. The courts have held that this is what Congress intended when it passed the Clean Air Act. It is time that EPA took the directive of the courts and fully complied with the law.

Your thoughts on this matter are urgently needed. Without the expertise of an engineer, you can still convey to the EPA that you are concerned about clean air. If you are committed enough to go all the way, you can tell EPA that you are willing to sacrifice in many ways so that clean air may be maintained. Written statements should be submitted in triplicate to EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, 27711 by October 11.

Committee has been described by observers as being absolutely derelict in its consideration of key amendments. If it had not been for Republican minority members and environmentalist opposition (but for different reasons), Senator Henry Jackson would have reported the bill out without the amendments.

Those key amendments are considered critical by proponents of a strong bill. As S 425 now stands, it does not:

- require written consent of the landowner;
- require states to designate those areas where mining should not be allowed for environmental or other valid reasons;
- require elimination of high walls and a restoration of the pit or strip to a contour which fits the natural landscape;
- prevent pushing spoil or waste over the bench on steep slopes;
- provide for demonstration that the mined area can be successfully and adequately revegetated prior to approval of a mining permit, and does not
- provide for adequate public notice.

Proponents of adequate strip mine legislation believe the first two amendments are absolutely essential; the others are very important. They are all before the Committee but Senator Jackson, Senator Lee Metcalf and other Democratic members seem unwilling to debate the amendments.

The Interior Committee will resume consideration of S 425 on Sept. 6-7. It is imperative that Senator Henry M. Jackson learn from people across the country that the key amendments are critical if we are to have good strip mine legislation. Public service telegrams should be sent to him before Sept. 6. Residents of Montana should send telegrams to Sen. Lee Metcalf and residents of Wyoming to Sen. Clifford P. Hansen.

In the next issue, High Country News will have a more extensive article on all aspects of strip mine legislation.

Rocky Mountain Report

by Larry T. Caudill, President
New Mexico Conservation Coordinating Council

The New Mexico Conservation Coordinating Council (Box 142, Albuquerque, 87103) is composed of four officers and twenty trustees, each representing a member organization. The Council includes: Central New Mexico Audubon Society; Izaak Walton League of America, New Mexico Division; Junior League of Albuquerque, Inc.; Mountain Valley Association; New Mexico Association of Natural Resource Conservation Districts; New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water; New Mexico Herpetological Society; New Mexico Houndsmens Association; New Mexico Horse Council; New Mexico Mountain Club; New Mexico Ornithological Society; National Speleological Society, Southwest Region; Professional Guides and Outfitters Association of New Mexico; Society of American Foresters, New Mexico Chapter; Society of Range Management, New Mexico Section; Soil Conservation Society of America; Trout Unlimited, Rio Grande Chapter; UNM Mountaineering Club; The Wildlife Society, New Mexico Chapter; Students for Environmental Action.

Initially conservative, the trend in the last year has been towards more activism and non-partisan political involvement. Several Council members are parties to legal actions against companies operating the 4-Corners Power Plant and the Bureau of Reclamation. The Council as a whole is a co-complainant in a case now before the Interstate Board of Land Appeals in which MolyCorp of Questa, New Mexico, requests a right of way across BLM land in order to decant water into the Wild River portion of the Rio Grande.

Recent events in which we have played a significant role are several. First, through our Citizens Coalition for Land Use Planning, we were instrumental in calling public and organizational attention to the need for responsible land use planning and sub-division control legislation. Coalition chairman David Freiwald subsequently served on the Governors Sub-division Task Force which drafted the bill which became law during the recent legislative session.

Secondly, N.M.C.C.C. President Larry Caudill was appointed to the Governor's Energy Task Force which is studying the problems of energy supply, demand, and production. Ultimately, the Task Force will make recommendations to the Governor in formulating an energy policy for New Mexico.

The Council initiated a meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation to discuss various of their projects such as channelization, phreatophyte clearance, and drainage. Other interested environmentalists were invited to present their views. The result has been the opening of communication lines with an agency notoriously hard to reach.

Areas of future concern and heavy involvement for N.M.C.C.C. are likewise several. Most immediate is the question of whether or not state agencies should be required to file environmental impact statements on actions or projects. Although the state's "little N.E.P.A." was enacted into law two years ago, comparatively little attention had been given to the Act. When the state's air quality standards were challenged in court and the plaintiff won, it was apparent that the law needed revision. An expanded seven member Environmental Quality Council is now hearing testimony in public hearings as to whether these statements should in fact be required and if so under what guidelines. N.M.C.C.C. has already supported this requirement and will continue to do so.

Also coming out of the 1972-1973 legislature was an appropriation to fund a Land Use Advisory Council to make recommendations for a State Land Use Plan. This will require the Council's attention, especially because of our past interest and expertise in this area.

New Mexico is no stranger to energy development in the 4-Corners area. Now, seven coal gasification units are projected for that area. The Bureau of Reclamation has been designated as the lead agency in coordinating the impact study. The magnitude of the proposed project, coupled with existing facilities, offers strong potential for degrading existing environmental quality. The Council will be involved as time, energy and expertise permits.

All in all it looks like a busy environmental year. We hope to win a few!



In 1966, the Diamond Ring Ranch in central Wyoming was found to have not only put illegal fences on public lands but posted those lands against public use (as shown above). Now, the ranch has lost grazing privileges on almost 20,000 acres in one large pasture in which it illegally sprayed sagebrush.

Ranch Finally Penalized

The Diamond Ring Ranch, into trouble for illegal fencing on public lands, illegal killing of game animals and loading the carcasses with poisons, and finally illegal spraying of herbicides on public lands, finally got its just rewards. The Wyoming ranch has been denied

Claims Deflated

At their August 16 meeting the Montana Fish and Game Commission learned that claims of decreased antelope numbers in eastern Montana because of increased coyote numbers were apparently false.

The proof of the pudding came when department game management personnel reported the results of antelope census work recently completed. The census showed that eastern antelope herds not only remained stable but increased in some areas.

Commenting on this turn of events, Commissioner Arnold Reider of Boulder said, "We were told after the (President's) executive order which restricted the use of chemicals for predator control that coyote numbers would increase greatly and that we would experience severe problems with coyote predation on antelope and deer."

"Obviously," Reider concluded, "this has not held true -- and especially in relation to antelope."

Wynn Freeman, administrator of the department's game management division, told the commissioners that coyote predation was natural with eastern Montana antelope. He explained that in healthy antelope populations, such as those in eastern Montana hunting districts, coyotes had little effect on overall numbers of antelope.

After receiving this assurance that Montana antelope were prospering, the commission approved recommended quotas presented to them by the department. Statewide, the quotas increased 209 over last year and about 2,000 over the department's tentative recommendations presented to the commission last January. That brings the total 1973 quota to 32,480.

all grazing privileges on the 19,756-acre Horse Heaven Pasture for a period of three years. However, the grazing period for the first year is about over so the penalty will only be invoked for 1974 and 1975.

In the mid-1960's, the ranch was found to have built over 60 miles of unauthorized sheep-tight fences on public lands. The fences enclosed very important antelope summer range. They were never removed, although they were modified, supposedly to allow migration of antelope.

In June, 1971, the ranch owner, Van Irvine, his son, Lee, and a government trapper, Mike Ryan, were charged with killing game animals. They killed antelope, filled the carcasses with deadly thallium poison, and left them lying -- many on public land. Van Irvine pleaded no contest to the charges and paid a minimum fine of \$679 on 29 charges of game law violations. The poisoned carcasses were later thought to be instrumental in the deaths of a number of bald and golden eagles found dead near Casper.

At about the same time of the game law violations, Van Irvine hired a helicopter from the Buffalo Flying Service (implicated in the shooting of hundreds of eagles) to spray sagebrush. In July, the Bureau of Land Management found some 3,600 acres of public land had been illegally sprayed with herbicides.

BLM charged the Diamond Ring Ranch with violations of the Code of Federal Regulations. A federal hearing examiner ruled against BLM which then appealed. It is the appeal which now upholds the BLM and invokes the penalty. The BLM won its appeal on a pleading that regulations had been violated and that to suspend punishment would abrogate the Bureau's proper management of public lands.

Ironically, Herman Werner who was behind the illegal fencing is now dead. He died Aug. 6 of injuries incurred in an automobile accident. The Casper Star-Tribune reported that Van Irvine, Werner's former son-in-law, sold the Diamond Ring Ranch some months ago. However, the Bureau of Land Management reports that the Ranch has not requested a transfer of grazing privileges.

Western.....Roundup

High Country News-13
Friday, Aug. 31, 1973

Where Has The Clean Air Gone?

Research is being done this week on air pollution problems in the famed Jackson Hole. Residents and visitors alike are uneasily eyeing the dirty veil of pollutants being drawn across the Tetons. Once beautiful photos are being obscured by a haze which has insidiously entered the valley.

Dr. Tom Cahill, professor of physics and Director of the Institute of Ecology at the University of California (Davis), brought in a sophisticated sniffer to sample the air. It has already been used at 13 stations in California and provided very useful information. The machine is so sophisticated that it can differentiate between pollutants from automobiles, local sources, and remote industrial processes. There are suspicions that some pollutants may come from phosphate plants in Idaho, or even steel mills in Utah. **High Country News** will report on the research findings when they are available.

Horses To Come Off The Range

Wild horse regulations have been signed by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, and became effective on August 15. Beginning on that date ranchers will have a 90-day claiming period for branded horses and "stray unmarked" horses. For all those horses which have been running free of charge on public lands the ranchers will pay \$2 per month trespass fees. Depending upon the age of the horses, some charges could be rather steep.

Ownership claims to any horses or burros will be handled by state brand inspectors. They will have to consider evidence of ownership before animals can be removed. After claims are presented to the Bureau of Land Management or the U.S. Forest Service, regulated roundups will be scheduled.

Colorado Growth Explosive

Colorado's population may jump 44 percent between 1970 and 1980. According to a report prepared for the state Division of Planning by the University of Colorado, the population may climb to 3.2 million in 1980. The 1970 population was 2.2 million. Most of this growth will take place in urban areas along Colorado's Front Range.

The report came as a surprise to many state experts, because the projected figure was higher than any previous estimate. Past estimates had been based on historical trends. This report analyzed economic conditions within the state and forecasted the creation of new jobs. According to Ken Baskette, assistant director of planning for the state, it is the first report to anticipate growth rather than simply project past growth rates into the future.

Briefly noted . . .

The nation's youngest mayor of a major U.S. city, 32-year-old Neil Goldschmidt of Portland, Oregon, says state and public officials have a "public trust" to protect the land and other resources. Goldschmidt told a meeting of the Citizen's Lobby for Sensible Growth in Colorado Springs, "There's no way you can keep people out of Colorado -- it's too nice a place to live. But you can tell them we want you to come under our terms and our conditions." He says he favors regional land-use planning.

* * *

High meat prices have brought a crisis of sorts to the men who watch over big game herds. Reports from across the country indicate poaching has risen spectacularly in some areas. Colorado reports poaching up about 95 percent over a similar period last year. At the same time Western game departments are bracing themselves against what could be the greatest hunting pressures ever exerted. Montana is anticipating unprecedented problems with trespass violations, but state officials say they hope to have every available man in the field come hunting season.

* * *

One of Alaska's only agricultural areas, and one of the best, is threatened by subdivisions. The Matanuska Valley, 42 miles north of Anchorage, is now catching overflow from the greater Anchorage population of about 132,000. The manager of the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corp., George Crowther, says about 60 subdivisions are being developed near Palmer, in the valley. Crowther says 70 percent of Alaska's 322 farms are located there.

* * *

The constitutionality of Oregon's "bottle bill" has been defended in a brief filed by the Oregon Environmental Council. The brief was written by Hans Linde of the University of Oregon Law School. It was filed in the Oregon Court of Appeals after beverage companies, brewers and bottle and can makers appealed a Circuit Court decision. The lower court upheld the constitutionality.



Raging Fires Brought Under Control

Forest fires which ravished the West last week have all been brought pretty much under control. The eleven days when many fires burned out of control have been described by some Forest Service men as the worst in memory. The fires burned through a great drought area extending from northern California to Oregon, Idaho and Montana. At one time, 17 major fires were burning out of control. When it was over an estimated 195,000 acres had been burned in 52 major fires. Hundreds of smaller fires were reported to have burned an undetermined acreage. Losses of timber, farm land and even homes were estimated at more than \$60 million.

Some of the biggest fires were in Montana. A 25,000-acre blaze was located on the Seven W Ranch and a 40,000-acre range fire was burning near Miles City. The situation on the forests was so bad that Montana Gov. Thomas Judge and the U.S. Forest Service ordered all national forests, state and private forests closed to the public.

Montana's Fish and Game Department says many blue-ribbon trout streams are seriously damaged by low water conditions and high temperatures. Even big game, especially elk, may face a bad winter because of lack of forage. Drought conditions affecting the forests and ranges were said to be the worst on record.

Scientists at the Northern Forest Fire Laboratory in Missoula said they were hard put to describe just how dry the forest and rangeland conditions were. One described it as being "Drier than baked cotton balls." They said that in tests they had started fires by flicking cigarette ashes into the dry tinder.

Missoula has received only 3.54 inches of rainfall, out of a normal amount of 8.7 inches, since Jan. 1.

Back-country Is Getting Crowded

Back-country hiking has become a popular way to see Yellowstone National Park. In the late 1960's, the park staff estimated about 6500 people a year ventured away from roads. By 1972, the count had soared to more than 55,000. Ten years ago the hiker had the wilderness pretty much to himself. Now many hikers have to share the wilderness and use it with care. The Park now has a back-country registration system, with about 300 designated campsites. One of these sites must be reserved by the hiker who intends to stay out overnight. A permit is issued free of charge.

Yellowstone Superintendent Jack Anderson says, "I think the visitor who makes the effort to explore the park on foot is likely to have a memorable experience; but I would caution that a Yellowstone wilderness trip calls for good advance information, good sense, and good physical conditioning."

Thoughts from the Distaff Corner

by Marge Higley

The last week of August. In town, a continuing of languid summer days, but up in the mountains there's a difference. Not quite yet autumn, but there's a subtle change in the color and texture of summer.

I sensed it soon after I turned onto the winding road which took me higher and higher through forests of evergreens and quaking aspen, past sage-covered hills and flower-covered meadows. It's been a wet, rainy summer, so everything looked bright and green, but somehow, a different shade of green. Not the fresh new-green of June, nor the lush green-green of July, but not yet the golden-green of early September. I guess it's just a plain, late-August-green.

When I traversed the same route in June, the flowers were mostly done in pastel shades. Ground-hugging wild phlox of white and pale pink. A few late-blooming dogtooth violets of soft yellow. Sprays of wild pink roses, lavender mountain iris, and fields of butter colored dandelions.

The water in the creek was swift-flowing, fed by runoff from gullies high up in the mountains. Along the banks grew dainty rose colored shooting-stars and creamy white water lilies.

My next trip up the mountain was in mid-July. By then, the low growing pastel blooms were giving way to taller, more gaily colored flowers, with blues and bright pinks predominating. Stately lupine, harebells, flax, geraniums, and wild honeysuckle intermingled with larkspur, purple asters, yellow mule's-ear and the pungent white tansy.

The creek was quieter now, and the tall grass under the willows was dotted with bright red Indian paintbrush. In a sandbar at the creek's edge I almost stepped on a large clump of bright yellow violets.

And July is the time for columbine. (I almost feel like I should use a capital C!) What could better bespeak of summer in the high country than this delicate blue and white blossom, rising tall above its lacy leaves in the dappled shadows at the edge of an aspen grove?

But that was July -- and now it's the end of August. The orange-yellows are taking over, liberally mixed with tall magenta fireweed, more purple asters, and deep blue gentians. And the waist-high native grasses are heading out. (Could this be the reason for that almost imperceptible change in shades of green?)

A brisk wind blows a portent of fall, turning a hillside of wild oats into an undulating expanse of shimmering purple and dull gold. As the gust travels on down the valley it ripples the leaves of the willows along the creek, momentarily exposing their silver-grey backs. A brief glimpse of a change soon to come, then the wind dies down and once more the scene is late summer.

It's almost as though nature is saying "If you think I've put on a show this summer, you should see what I've planned for September!"

That's a tantalizing invitation, and I hope that I'll be able to accept.

Are you listening, Boss?



Was somebody asking to see the soul?
See, your own shape and countenance, persons, substances,
beasts, the trees, the running rivers, the rocks and sands.

WALT WHITMAN: Starting from Paumanok

Saving Fuel?

Since President Nixon recommended in a recent address that Americans should cut down (quote) "energy use by individual consumers by five percent," a lot of suggestions have come along to explain ways in which to do just that. One of the most frequent suggestions to motorists is that they stop using their air conditioners all the time, since the air conditioners require additional fuel.

The trouble is, even if some motorists are willing to drive around in sweltering heat, the fact is that most drivers can't turn off their air conditioners. A National Observer report reveals that many big American cars, such as Chryslers, Plymouths and Dodges, are built with air conditioner compressors that continue to work even when the control switch is in the "off" position. The Chrysler air conditioners are designed to remain on until the temperature reaches a freezing 32-degrees. In some Ford cars, the air conditioner continues to operate even when the car heater is on.

A Chrysler spokesperson explained that the constantly-functioning air conditioners are a "consumer convenience." Maybe they should tell it to the President. : : EARTH NEWS



Bulletin Board

For those interested in methane digesters using human and animal wastes, the M. J. Alchemy Institute, 15 West Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101, has issued an excellent publication. **Methane Digesters for Fuel and Fertilizers** may be obtained from the Institute for \$3.

* * *

Reprints of **Rodale's Environmental Action Bulletin** on the effectiveness of Oregon's beverage container law are available from EAB, Emmaus, PA 18049. Costs are 15 cents each for 1-25 copies; 10 cents each for 26-200; and 10 cents each for over 200 copies. These could be used effectively in support of legislation in other areas. The Environmental Protection Agency recently published a summary and analysis of the first six months of Oregon's law and concludes that it is eminently successful.

Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Where mountain meadows are free and wide
Man has come to subdivide.
In close-packed hi-rises
He somehow surmises
That he's "roughing it" on a mountainside!

* * *

U.S. News & World Report (Aug. 27, 1973) says Americans are discovering the "hard truth" of finite resources. It says current shortages are "only a hint" of what is coming, and says world populations are "starting to press against the outer limits of earth's resources." The prestigious and conservative journal says the motto of the future will be "CONSERVE."

* * *

Soviet authorities are said to be worried by falling birth rates. However, there are no indications that the government plans to encourage larger families. One or two children seems to be a normal family size in the Russian and European ethnic groups. Moslem and Asian republics average larger family sizes.

* * *

The First Boston Corporation (20 Exchange Place New York, NY 10005) is sponsoring the first and only tax-exempt environmental bond fund. A \$25-million portfolio of bonds will provide funds for abatement of pollution, prevention of environmental degradation, or improvement in the quality of environment. (A copy of the prospectus may be obtained by writing Ass't Vice Pres. Richard A. Phelps.)

* * *

A nine-member Committee of Scientific Advisors has been named by the **U.S. Marine Mammal Commission**. The committee includes experts on whales, dolphins, seals, walrus and polar bears. The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 provides for the Commission and the Committee.

* * *

Friends of the Earth says Newmont Mining Co. has asked the National Park Service to approve a system of roads in Glacier Bay National Monument in Alaska. The 2.8-million acre national monument is one of the few units in the National Park System which has never had any roads. FOE says it does not need them now and has urged Park Service Director Ronald H. Walker to oppose them.

* * *

Trout are being used as pollution detectors by the French city of Nantes in the Loire Valley. The electronically rigged fish signal slight changes in pollution levels through their swimming habits.

* * *

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has imported a species of weevil from Switzerland to feed on the musk thistle. The thistle is an exotic noxious weed in some of the state's wildlife areas. The weevil is a natural enemy which feeds on the seed heads. The insect cannot reproduce without the musk thistle so it cannot become another pest.



"We will save ourselves or we won't be saved."

John Gardner



Dodio Mario is one of Yellowstone's rangerettes — a new look in the National Park Service.

A New Look in Park Rangers

Not many years ago, the sight of a woman wearing the traditional park ranger's hat caused comment. This year in Yellowstone National Park, it seems as if the sexes beneath the broad-brimmed Stetsons are about equally divided. Particularly in the information and interpretive services, the girls are taking over what once was considered a man's job.

Not surprisingly, the men of the Yellowstone staff seem to like this invasion. Park Superintendent Jack Anderson says, "The girls in uniform are a great addition to our work force. For one thing, park visitors sometimes find it easier to approach and talk to a girl; a man wearing a badge doesn't have the same drawing power."

Most of the women in the park uniform this summer are seasonal employees, of course, drawn from school and college ranks for a summer-vacation tour of duty from June to September. These women work either as Ranger-Naturalists, Information Receptionists, or Volunteers-in-Parks. Chief Park Naturalist Al Mebane has a total of 61 serving

in his organization, which is charged with the visitor service at various points of interest in the park.

Duties are varied at the many different stations. At Old Faithful, Ruth Dugdale from Rutherford, N.J., conducts a geyser walk several days a week at 1 p.m. At Fishing Bridge, Becky Davies from Cedar Falls, Ia., leads hikes to places like Storm Point and 10,566-ft. Avalanche Peak. Dody Morio from Bellevue, Wash., can be found on the boardwalks of the Mammoth Hot Springs, or presenting evening campfire talks.

With a staff of about 70 women in uniform this summer, Yellowstone National Park has made a pleasant transformation from the days of male monopoly of the ranger services.

Nelson Named

The Senate has assigned Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin to the Interior Committee.

One of the most active committees in the Senate, Interior is now considering major legislation on the nation's energy problems, on strip mining regulation, on ocean environmental management, on land use, on Indian affairs and on national parks and recreation.

Until 1971, Nelson had been a member of the Interior Committee. Then he was assigned to the Finance Committee, a position he will retain along with his Labor and Public Welfare Committee membership. With this assignment, the Senate is making an exception to their rule limiting a Senator's membership to two major standing committees.

Nelson's current legislative efforts include a major land use amendment, the preparation of energy legislation, an ocean environmental protection proposal, a proposal to add several Wisconsin wilderness areas to the National Wilderness System, and a proposal to study the addition of the Lower Wisconsin River to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

During Nelson's previous membership on the committee, he co-authored the National Environmental Policy Act, led the fight to save Everglades National Park, achieved the passage of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore bill and the addition of the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

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WESTERN PORTRAIT

Joyce Jorgenson, Editor

Joyce Jorgenson edits the Ouray County Plaindealer.

She covers births, weddings, deaths, the weather, the high school — and cloud seeding, land use planning, wilderness hearings, dams, coal mining and power plants. It's all part of the news in the small tyrolean-western town of Ouray, Colo. (pop. 800).

Her biggest battle has been fighting a power package designed by Kemmerer Coal Company of Wyoming. The company's plans include mining 21,000 acres on Tongue Mesa and installing an electric generating or coal gasification plant at Colona, the mouth of Ouray's small mountain valley. Jorgenson alerted the community to the plans before they had unknowingly approved the prerequisite for the heavy industry, a water storage project.

The Dallas Project dam, originally part of Wayne Aspinall's plan for the enchancement of dry Western Colorado, was scheduled to be built a few miles north of Ouray "for irrigation." But the money for the project had been indefinitely deferred by Nixon's budget cuts.

"The people had rather forlornly given up long ago on fighting the dam itself," Jorgenson said.

While the money lay in Washington's fist, she probed to find out why Ouray, "the Switzerland of America" was a candidate for a major reclamation project. Last September she understood. The area's Tri-County Water District had secretly sold an option on 24,000 acre-feet of reservoir water to Kemmerer Coal Company. She blew the information "sky-high" and found support among the people in her area. Clearly, the dam was not to be solely for crops, stock and beachlovers.

Late in June, Jorgenson learned that she had won at least a temporary victory. The Senate and Public Works Appropriations Subcommittees allocated no funds for the Dallas Project dam this year.

"That doesn't mean it's dead entirely," Jorgenson says. "But so close that I am told it's a sure thing, regardless of whatever

snortings may be made in the future about it."

Although her investigative reporting on issues like the Dallas Project has earned her environmentalists' admiration, she doesn't wish to wear the label herself. "Environmentalists" pushed for wilderness classification of the Uncompahgre National Forest surrounding Ouray. She would prefer to see multiple use management there.

"We have been begging them not to designate the area as wilderness and maybe people will leave it alone for another 100 years," she said.

Some environmentalists who came to the wilderness hearings had no feeling for the area and were uninformed. "One environmentalist stood on a meadow made of tailings and said he'd like to see it remain in a pristine state," Jorgenson said. Two base metal mining operations have been the backbone of the local industry for 90 years.

"Good factual input comes from those who make their livings here or who come to live here because they love this land and have learned to understand it and its potentials," she says.

Jorgenson came to Ouray with her husband, John, in 1954. During that time they leased the Plaindealer and Joyce sold paintings to help make a living. After a stay in Alaska, Joyce returned to Ouray. This time she was able to buy the paper. She has been editing and publishing on her own for the past six years.

One of the papers' most popular features is the "Moosetown Moos" column, written by Pat Fancher, a miner who Jorgenson says is typical of the people in her area. The "Moos" is an almanac of modern folk wisdom. "If the cold keeps killing cows, and starvation keeps killing horses we may have to import sheep to feed Wyoming's eagles," Fancher advises.

"Talk about alligators!" Jorgenson says referring to the multitude of problems that have touched Ouray in recent years. (When you're up to your ass in alligators, it's hard



Joyce Jorgenson, editor of the Plaindealer.

to remember you came to drain the swamp." — Anon.) "Just trying to keep on top of developments is enough to keep a large well-staffed newspaper jumping," she says.

The Plaindealer is neither large nor well-staffed. Jorgenson employs one other staff member and some stringers to put out the 12-page weekly for her 1,500 readers. Her home is her office and her studio. Like many homes in Ouray, it is near a waterfall flowing out of a sheer wall at the mountains' base.

Cloud seeding has been another of Jorgenson's "alligators."

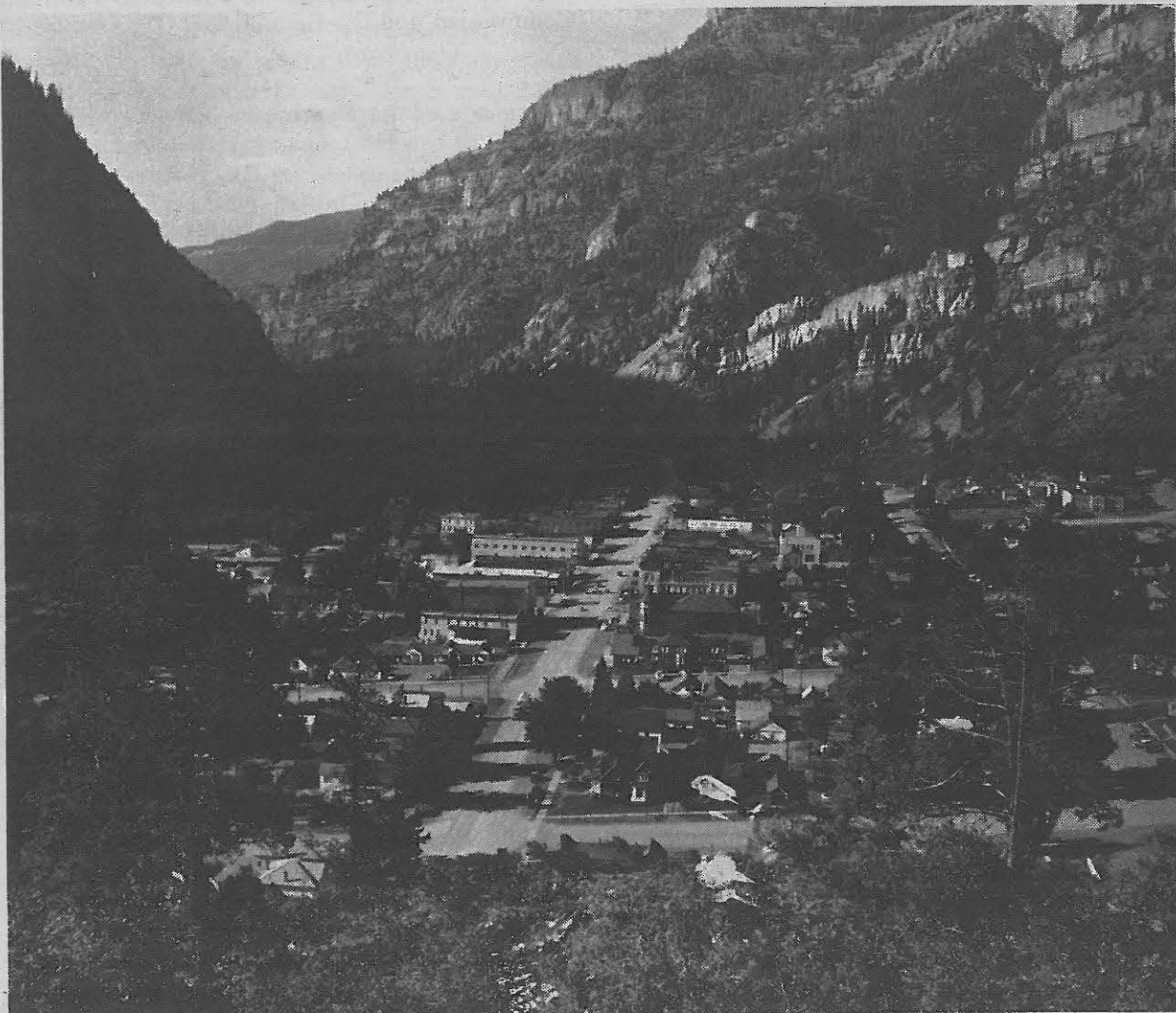
"It takes years for the ranchers in this valley to recover from a bad winter," she says. "We sent the cloud seeders from the Bureau of Reclamation screaming and shouting out of Ouray."

They are at work close by in the San Juan Mountains, despite Jorgenson's efforts however.

For a few weeks this summer when cloud seeders had left, the dam scare over, before the tourists came, Ouray was an extraordinarily peaceful place.

Jorgenson is enjoying the respite, watchfully.

"The coal plant and mine will be looking for other water — and may get it," Jorgenson says. "So we'll be hacking away at that as the need arises." — JN



The Plaindealer covers the news in Ouray, Colo. — a deceptively peaceful-looking place.

In The NEWS

Mountain Resorts, 3 & 4

poised at the edge of two national parks, developments near Cody and Jackson, Wyoming give planners continuing headaches.

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Nerve Gas

in huge quantities is stored near Denver and Salt Lake City. The thought gives some people nightmares.

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See Cody's Country

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Speak Out For Your Air

hearings on clean air give you a chance to say how clean you want your air to remain.

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Western Portrait

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